



Ghasphul premieres today

A CORRESPONDENT

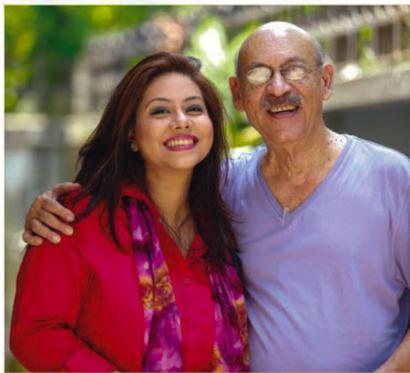
The new film under the Impress Telefilm banner, "Ghasphul", is set for World TV premiere tonight at 7:50pm. Besides, the movie is also releasing at Blockbuster Cinemas in the capital and Purobi in Mymensingh. Eventually, the film will be released in other cinemas as well.

Presented by beauty brand Lux, the film is written and directed by Akram Khan, and stars Kazi

Asif, Shayla Sabi, Tania Brishti, Naila Azad Nupur and Manosh Bandopadhyay. The 123-minute film was shot in Kushtia. Classical vocalist Priyanka Gope has lent her voice, alongside music director of the film Swani Zybaeer.

The film revolves around amnesiac youth Toukir, who lives in a small village with his family. An old letter he finds in his pocket give rise to many questions, the answers of which he cannot remember.

Shomi Kaiser-Abul Hayat join forces for TV series



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Seasoned actress Shomi Kaiser is working under veteran actor-director Abul Hayat's direction after a decade. She will be seen playing the lead role in "Akasher Oparye Akash" - written by Abul Hayat and Kamrul Hasan. The 104-episode TV serial casts Shomi as the protagonist Farzana.

Hayat said, "The entire unit is happy to work with Shomi. We are thankful to her for coming on board. She is a brilliant actress and I hope the audience will appreciate her work."

Shomi said, "The serial is about the empowerment of women and that's why I am so enthusiastic about it. Moreover, Hayat uncle had expressed his interest in working with me for a long time and the script is really good. I hope I will present a good drama serial to the audience."

The series also casts Hasan Imam, Laila Hasan, Sharmili Ahmed, Azad Abul Kalam, Shahed Sharif Khan, Raisul Islam Asad, Nazneen Hasan Chumki, Jenny and Abul Hayat, among others.

The serial will go on air on a satellite channel soon.

Cannes' glitzy opening night welcomes Hollywood's A-List

The Cannes Film Festival kicked off on Wednesday with "Standing Tall", a French drama about a judge (Catherine Deneuve) who tries to counsel a troubled teenager.

It was only the second opening-night film in the festival's 68-year-history directed by a woman (Emmanuelle Bercot). Girl power seemed to be a theme on and off the red carpet. At 71, Deneuve proved she's still an international movie icon, drawing cheers as she entered the Palais, along with her co-star Benoit Magimel.

The guest list included a cluster of Hollywood stars: Natalie Portman — whose directorial debut, "A Tale of Love and Darkness", plays in the official selection; Naomi Watts (here for competition drama "Sea of Trees"); Julianne Moore; Lupita Nyong'o; and Isabella Rossellini — whose mother, Ingrid Bergman, graces the official festival poster. Chinese stars Fan Bingbing and Angelababy were also among the high-profile celebrities who attended.

The mood on the red carpet was upbeat and festive on the warm evening, with songs from the Beatles and Pharrell Williams' "Happy" playing the guests into the theatre. Even though the festival had suggested it would be cracking down on selfies on the red carpet, many of the guests came armed with iPhones and snapped away, to the frustration



SOURCE: GETTY IMAGES

Cannes chairman Thierry Fremaux and Jury members -- Ethan Coen, Sophie Marceau, Rosy de Palma, Guillermo del Toro, Rokia Traore, Xavier Dolan, Sienna Miller, Jake Gyllenhaal and Joel Coen pose at the Palais before the opening night screening of "Standing Tall".

of ushers who tried to push them along. Photo ops continued inside the theatre as people took pictures of themselves and the crowd from their seats.

Julianne Moore took the stage to welcome everybody to Cannes, and also pick up her

best actress prize from last year for "Maps to the Stars" (she had left the South of France early and not been able to attend the 2014 awards ceremony). "I'm so honored," said Moore. "I never imagined I would receive a prize in Cannes."

The pre-show was hosted by Cannes emcee Lambert Wilson, who opened the ceremony with a photo retrospective paying homage to women both in front and behind the camera. Wilson also paid tribute to the work of Fremaux, who put together an impressive

exhibit on the 120th anniversary of Lumiere brothers' invention of cinema. The lavish homage saw dancers perform to classic movie clips.

The Cannes jury this year is headed by the Coen brothers, who received a standing ovation after a reel showed some of their greatest hits from " Fargo " to " No Country For Old Men ". The applause continued for jurors Jake Gyllenhaal, Sienna Miller, Xavier Dolan (the director of " Mommy ") and Guillermo del Toro. The inside of the theatre was so hot, Spanish actress Rosy de Palma (also on the jury) fanned herself throughout the opening remarks.

For this 68th edition, which marks Pierre Lescurer's first year as president and is taking place only a few months after the Charlie Hebdo terrorist attack in Paris, artistic director Thierry Fremaux chose to open with a French social drama rather than a big-budget US film, as Cannes has done in the past, in order to highlight the fest's responsibility to show movies that reflect contemporary society.

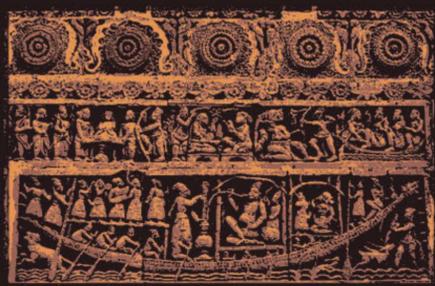
"Standing Tall" earned a positive response from Cannes audiences, drawing a lengthy standing ovation that left the cast in tears. The film's young star Rod Paradot is already being hailed as a rising star to watch.

Source: Variety

The Daily Star



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